Joint working group on Indo-China boundary

3138. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15th meeting of Joint Working Group on Indo-China boundary question was held after a gap of two years which was attended by Foreign Secretary and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister on 3rd March, 2005;

(b) if so, whether two day meeting discussed formulation of guiding principles to resolve territorial dispute that has hampered bilateral ties between the two countries;

(c) if so, what were main decision arrived at;

(d) whether these decisions have been ratified during the Chinese Prime Minister's visit to India during April 9-12, 2005;

(e) if so, to what extent talks with Chinese PM have been successful; and

(f) what are the agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The 15th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question was held in Beijing on March 30-31, 2005.

(b) The Joint Working Group is presently engaged in tasks relating to clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control and establishment of confidence building measures in the India-China border areas. The guiding principles for the settlement of India-China boundary question have been the subject matter of discussion between the Special Representatives on the boundary question. However, Foreign Secretary utilized his visit to China to have discussion on the boundary question with the Chinese Special Representative on the margins of the Joint Working Group meeting.

(c) During the 15th meeting of the Joint Working Group, both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification and confidence building measures, and finalised a "Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of CBMs in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas".

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) During the visit of the Chinese Premier, the two sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question. They expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the discussion between the Special Representatives and concluded an "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of India-China Boundary Question". The need to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control through the mechanism of Joint Working Group was also reiterated. The "Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas" was also signed.

Nepalese broadside against India

3139. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal recently launched a broadside against India; and

(b) if so, details thereof and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government of India is aware of the remarks made by Dr. Tulsi Giri, Vice Chairman of Nepalese Council of Ministers, in which, among other issues, he criticized GoI for not participating in the SAARC Summit in February 2005.

Government of India has not officially responded to the statement of Dr. Tulsi Giri.

American concerns over Indo-Iran gas pipeline

3140. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the course of her visit, the US Secretary of State, expressed her deep concern over India-Iran pipeline;